

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 943

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Travis Tritt upon his thirtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those gifted artists who have experienced great success in the world of country music; and

WHEREAS, Travis Tritt, one of the most recognizable voices on country radio, recently celebrated his thirtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, hailing from Marietta, Georgia, Travis Tritt came up in the state's rough-and-tumble club circuit before moving to Nashville, where he built his reputation on a blend of Southern rock swagger, honky tonk themes, and songwriting craft that found favor with older stars such as Roy Acuff and young fans alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tritt began his musical career as a soloist in a children's church choir in Marietta, Georgia; he taught himself how to play guitar at the age of eight, wrote his first song at fourteen, and plunged into Atlanta's night life as a singer and bandleader at a young age; and

WHEREAS, after signing with Warner Brothers Records in 1988, he released the album *Country Club*, a strong debut that cracked the Top 10 with its title cut and yielded three Top 5 singles, "Help Me Hold On," "I'm Gonna Be Somebody," and "Drift Off to Dream," that showed off his muscular singing and versatility; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his spectacular rise, *Billboard* magazine named him the top new male artist of 1990, while the Country Music Association gave Travis Tritt its Horizon Award in 1991; he soon began making regular appearances on the Grand Ole Opry's stage and was invited to join the cast of the Opry the following year; and

WHEREAS, for the next five years, Mr. Tritt was a near-constant presence on the country charts, alternating rowdy anthems, "T-R-O-U-B-L-E," and "Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof," with such power ballads as "Foolish Pride" and contemplative stories like "Where Corn Don't Grow"; he also teamed up with fellow Opry member Marty Stuart for several songs, including the CMA- and Grammy Award-winning "The Whiskey Ain't Working" and the Top 10 hit "This One's Gonna Hurt You (For a Long, Long Time)"; and

WHEREAS, after signing with Columbia Records, Travis Tritt shot back to the top of the charts at the beginning of the new millennium with his hits "Best of Intentions" and "It's a Great Day to Be Alive"; he showed off his more traditional, acoustic side, too, including his banjo picking abilities, with an appearance on 2000's *Big Mon* tribute to Bill Monroe and participation in Earl Scruggs's 2004 *Artist in Residence* concert series at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum; and

WHEREAS, following his album *The Storm*, which was co-produced by Randy Jackson, Mr. Tritt formed his own record label in 2010, with the first release marking his twentieth anniversary as a country star; and

WHEREAS, Travis Tritt was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on February 29, 1992, and he considers it one of the highest honors of his career; and

WHEREAS, it is the dream of every country music artist to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry and perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House, and it is most fitting that Travis Tritt be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Travis Tritt upon his thirtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, commend his illustrious career in country music, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.